

# House File 385 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 385

BY KOESTER and LOFGREN

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act concerning the protection of student athletes from
- 2 concussions and other brain injuries.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.   NEW SECTION.   **280.13C Brain injury policies.**

2     1.   *a.*   The board of directors of each public school district  
3 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall  
4 work in concert with the Iowa high school athletic association  
5 and the Iowa girls high school athletic union to distribute  
6 guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform  
7 and educate coaches, student athletes, and the parents and  
8 guardians of student athletes of the risks, signs, symptoms,  
9 and behaviors consistent with a sports-related concussion or  
10 brain injury, including the danger of continuing to participate  
11 in athletic activities after suffering a concussion or brain  
12 injury.

13    *b.*   Annually, each school district and nonpublic school shall  
14 provide to the parent or guardian of each student athlete a  
15 concussion and brain injury information sheet. The student  
16 athlete and the student athlete's parent or guardian shall sign  
17 and return the concussion and brain injury information sheet  
18 to the student athlete's school prior to the student athlete's  
19 participation in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic  
20 activity for grades seven through twelve.

21    2.   If a student athlete's coach or contest official observes  
22 signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion  
23 or brain injury in an interscholastic athletic practice or  
24 game, the student athlete shall be immediately removed from  
25 participation.

26    3.   *a.*   A student athlete who has been removed from  
27 participation shall not recommence such participation until  
28 the student athlete has been evaluated by a licensed health  
29 care provider trained in the evaluation and management of  
30 concussions and other brain injuries and the student athlete  
31 has received written clearance to return to participation from  
32 the health care provider.

33    *b.*   For the purposes of this section, a "*licensed health care*  
34 *provider*" means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor,  
35 advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, or athletic

1 trainer licensed by a board designated under section 147.13.

2 4. The board of directors of each public school district and  
3 the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall adopt  
4 rules and procedures necessary to carry out the requirements of  
5 this section.

6 EXPLANATION

7 This bill directs the board of directors of each public  
8 school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic  
9 school to work in concert with the Iowa high school athletic  
10 association and the Iowa girls high school athletic union to  
11 distribute guidelines and other pertinent information and  
12 forms to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and  
13 parents and guardians of student athletes of the risks, signs,  
14 symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a sports-related  
15 concussion or brain injury, including the danger of continuing  
16 to participate in athletic activities after a concussion or  
17 brain injury. The bill requires school districts and nonpublic  
18 schools to annually provide the parent or guardian of a student  
19 athlete with a concussion and brain injury information sheet  
20 which must be signed and returned before the student athlete  
21 may participate in an extracurricular interscholastic athletic  
22 activity for grades seven through 12.

23 The bill provides that if a student athlete's coach or  
24 contest official observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors  
25 consistent with a concussion or brain injury in an  
26 interscholastic athletic practice or game, the student athlete  
27 must be removed from participation. The bill provides that a  
28 student athlete removed from participation shall not recommence  
29 participation until the student athlete has been evaluated  
30 by a licensed health care provider, defined as a physician,  
31 physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse  
32 practitioner, nurse, or athletic trainer licensed by a board  
33 designated under Code section 147.13, trained in the evaluation  
34 and management of concussions and other head injuries and  
35 received written clearance to return to play.

1     The bill directs the board of directors of each school  
2 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school  
3 to adopt rules and procedures necessary to carry out the  
4 requirements of the bill.